ARIs in Jharkhand

1063. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any special plan to encourage agro and rural industries in tribal areas of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the agro and rural industries located in Jharkhand with the efforts of the Central Government; and

(d) the manner in which these industries help the tribals of nearby areas?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, for over ten years, the Government has been implementing two credit-linked subsidy scheme of employment generation, throughout the country, including the tribal areas of Jharkhand. These are: (i) Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) under which entrepreneurs are assisted in setting up village industries, in rural areas and small towns with population up to 20,000 and (ii) Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) under which the educated unemployed youth in the rural as well as urban areas are assisted in setting up self-employment ventures. Subsidy admissible to the beneficiaries of both these schemes is released through banks in combination with the loans provided by these banks. The PMRY is implemented by the States while the REGP is implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and State Khadi and Village Industries Boards.

The other steps taken by KVIC for the promotion and development of village industries throughout the country, including Jharkhand, include:

(i) Rural Industries Service Centres Scheme (RISC) for setting up of common facility centres (CFCs) to provide infrastructural support and services to such industries;

(ii) Product Development Design Intervention and Packaging Programme (PRODIP) for improved design and packaging of village industry products; and

(iii) Various types of assistance for cluster-based development of khadi

and village industries under the recentl approved Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI).

(c) The number of units set up by eligible beneficiaries of the two schemes (REGP and PMRY) in Jharkhand during the last three years is given in the table given below:

Year	Number of Units	
	REGP	PMRY
2003-04	323	4774
2004-05	240	4804
2005-06	217	4570

(d) The units set up under the REGP are, by and large, located in rural areas and small towns, including tribal areas, and mostly use local raw materials for value addition through processing and thus help the people of nearby areas by generating additional employment opportunties, etc., while approximately 49 per cent of the beneficiaries under PMRY Scheme are from rural areas.

Prices of plastic raw materials

1064. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of plastic raw materials are fluctuating and thereby causing concern to the manufacturers;

(b) if so, whether the plastic Associations have put forward certain demands to the Central Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the response of the Government to the demands from the Plastic Associations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) All India Plastic Manufacturers Association (AIPMA), All India Plastic Industries Associations have given the representation or inordinate and frequent price